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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

Relative to the transfer of the quarantine system of Cuba to the new Government of that island.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 16, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter received from the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service relative to the transfer of the quarantine system of the island of Cuba to the new Government of that island and narrating in detail the measures which will be necessary at the ports of Havana, Matanzas, Nuevitas, Santiago and Cienfuegos, to insure the protection of ports in the United States from the introduction of yellow fever from said ports in Cuba. This is to be effected by the detail of medical officers of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in the offices of the United States consuls at the ports named.

I have to request that, both in the preliminary agreements which are now being made in the arrangement of the transfer of the authority of the United States to the island of Cuba and also in the treaty which it is understood will be subsequently entered into between the two Governments, the provisions as outlined in the letter of the Surgeon-General be embodied.

Respectfully,

O. L. SPAULDING,
Acting Secretary.

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF SURGEON-GENERAL, U. S. M. H. S.,
Washington, D. C., April 16, 1902.

SIR: The matter of the transfer of authority of the United States to the new Government of the island of Cuba is one of great moment at the present time with regard to quarantine matters.

Under Executive order, the quarantine stations in the island of Cuba have been conducted through a chief quarantine officer for the whole island, located at Havana, who has had direct control over the officers detailed at the other stations.

There are, at present, 5 fully equipped quarantine stations, namely, Havana, Matanzas, Nuevitas, Santiago and Cienfuegos. At each of these stations, there has been supplied a disinfecting barge, fully equipped with the best disinfecting machinery, and, in addition, a good launch or boarding vessel and the necessary offices on shore.

In addition to these 5 regular stations there are 14 inspecting stations in charge of acting assistant surgeons of the U. S. Marine-Hospital

Service, who have been instructed to inspect vessels and, in case of need, to remand the same to a fully equipped station. In addition to the work of inspecting incoming vessels, all of these officers of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service have also inspected vessels departing for the United States, performing such disinfection thereon as might be necessary and, furthermore, have given to all vessels leaving Cuba bills of health which, in the case of vessels leaving for ports other than those of the United States, have been of a special character, simply narrating thereon the sanitary condition of the port.

The property connected with these quarantine stations has been purchased or paid for from the revenues of the island and is to be transferred to Cuban officers, with the exception of the disinfecting steamer *Sanator*, in Havana harbor, which is the property of the Treasury Department.

After consultation with Governor-General Wood and Surg. A. H. Glennan, U. S. M. H. S., chief quarantine officer of Cuba, who is also upon General Wood's staff, it has been determined that all property of the quarantine stations purchased from the Cuban funds should be transferred to Cuban officers, who have already been designated for the purpose, and that the quarantine functions shall also be transferred to these officers.

While thus the quarantine of incoming vessels at Cuban ports is to be transferred to Cuban officials, it is deemed essential that the inspection and certification of vessels leaving these ports for ports in the United States shall still be under accredited officers of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, as provided by the law of 1893, and as was previously done before the Spanish war, and as is customary in European ports, and it is proposed, therefore, to have, under this law of 1893, these officers detailed by order of the President in the respective consular offices.

In the performance of this duty, however, it will be necessary that the disinfecting apparatus belonging to the quarantine stations must be occasionally utilized for assuring the safety of vessels leaving for the United States, and it is necessary that some arrangement should be effected with the Cuban authorities providing for such use.

At the port of Havana it is proposed to maintain the *Sanator*, the property of the Treasury Department, equipped and ready for use for the disinfection of vessels for the United States and as there is no other disinfecting apparatus to be used by the Cuban authorities in their administration of incoming quarantine, it is suggested that, when desired, such vessels shall be disinfected by the officers of this Service with the use of the *Sanator*, and that a reasonable fee be charged for this protection to the city of Havana and the island of Cuba.

I have, therefore, to suggest that this letter be forwarded to the Secretary of War with the request that, either by preliminary agreement with the island authorities or as a part of the treaty to be entered into between the United States and the Government of Cuba, or in both manners this understanding be had, embracing the arrangements above detailed, namely :

1. That in Havana harbor the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service will disinfect such incoming vessels as may be turned over to them by the quarantine authorities, for which a reasonable fee shall be charged ; and that all vessels leaving for the United States before their bills of health are signed by the Marine-Hospital officer shall be subject to such disinfection as may be required by him, making use therefor of the Service-disinfecting steamer *Sanator*.

2. That, at the four remaining ports of the island equipped with disinfecting barges, the use of this apparatus, the property of the island of Cuba, will be made available for use by the officers detailed in the offices of the consulates in such disinfection of vessels bound for the United States as may be necessary; and that these barges, with their disinfecting apparatus, shall be maintained by said Cuban Government in a state of efficiency for use at any time. It will be understood that the cost of disinfectants used in disinfecting vessels bound for the United States is not a charge against the United States Government, but should be borne, either by the Cuban Government or by the vessels themselves.

3. That the U. S. Marine-Hospital officers stationed at the several Cuban ports will, on request, give such assistance in the matter of maritime quarantine as may be desired.

In accordance with this understanding, it is proposed to detail medical officers of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in the United States consulates at Havana, Matanzas, Nuevitas, Santiago, and Cienfuegos.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 14, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, inclosing a communication from the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service and recommending that the provisions suggested by him regarding the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in Cuba be embodied in the preliminary arrangements pending the inauguration of the new Cuban Government and also in the treaty to be negotiated between the United States and said Government.

These communications were referred to the military governor of Cuba, and a copy of his indorsement returning the same is herewith inclosed.

There are also transmitted herewith copies of a cablegram this day sent to the military governor of Cuba and of a letter to the honorable the Secretary of State forwarding copies of the correspondence mentioned.

Respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 14, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, dated the 16th ultimo, inclosing the recommendations of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service relative to the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in Cuba, and to invite attention to the indorsement of the military governor of Cuba thereon stating that he concurs in said recommendations.

There are also inclosed a copy of a cablegram this day sent to the military governor of Cuba and a copy of a letter to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury.

Attention is likewise invited to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury that the provisions suggested by the Surgeon-General be embodied in the treaty to be negotiated between the United States and the new Government of Cuba.

Respectfully,

ELIHU ROOT,
Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

May 23, 1902

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[Copy of first indorsement on letter of the Secretary of Treasury, dated April 16, 1902, forwarding recommendations of Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service of same date.]

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CUBA,
Havana, Cuba, April 28, 1902.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, Washington, D. C., to Capt. C. R. Edwards, chief of the Division of Insular Affairs, requesting reference to the Hon. Secretary of War.

The within letters were left in my hands by the Hon. Secretary of War, during his recent visit in Havana, and are returned.

I fully concur in the recommendations of the Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, and urge that they be accepted and put into effect in such manner as the Government of the United States may deem advisable.

LEONARD WOOD,
Military Governor of Cuba.

[Copy of cablegram sent May 14, 1902.]

To WOOD, *Havana:*

Take such steps as may be practicable on the part of the military government to give effect to the recommendations of the Treasury Department relative to the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in Cuba, pending negotiations of treaty with the new Government.

ROOT,
Secretary of War.

[Copy of telegram received at War Department, May 15, 1902.]

HAVANA, CUBA, *May 15, 1902.*

SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington, D. C.*

Will do all possible to give effect to the recommendations of the Treasury Department relative to the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service in Cuba.

WOOD,
Military Governor.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Steamship City of Para at San Francisco from Panama—Yellow fever en route.

[Copy of telegram received at Bureau.]

ANGEL ISLAND, CAL., *May 20, 1902.*

WYMAN, *U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C.:*

Steamship City of Para arrived from Panama two days. Has had deaths from yellow fever en voyage. Will be disinfected and held.

CUMMING.

Meeting of the Texas State medical association.

GALVESTON, TEX., *May 12, 1902.*

SIR: In accordance with Bureau letter of the 21st ultimo, detailing me to represent the Service at the meeting of the State medical association of Texas at Dallas, May 6 to May 9, and to report on proceedings of interest to the Service. I have the honor to report that I attended said meeting and returned to duty at Galveston on May 10.

I have the honor to state that 2 resolutions of interest to the Service were adopted by the State association.

1. Advocating State control of tuberculosis and appropriating \$200 to publish literature on the subject to be distributed throughout the State. 2. Advocating formation of State board of health in place of State health officer.

I would state in reference to the second resolution that Governor